

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A packing arranged between a first article and a second article for keeping watertight the boundary therebetween, comprising:

a solid-core ring-shaped packing body having a thickness in a first direction in which the first article and the second article face each other larger than a width in a second direction orthogonal to the first direction;

a protruding piece which protrudes outwardly from an outer edge of said solid-core ring-shaped packing body at a midpoint along the thickness of the packing body from a position where the thickness of said packing is divided into two segments;

a securing portion attached to said protruding piece and secured to said first article,

wherein the securing portion extends from the protruding piece so that the protruding piece provides a restoring force preventing said packing body from falling or rolling to one side when the first and second articles are mated.

2. (currently amended) A packing according to claim 1, ~~wherein said protruding piece is comprising a second~~ protruding piece which protrudes inwardly from an inner edge of said solid-core ring-shaped packing body.

3. Canceled.

4. (currently amended) A packing according to claim 4 2, ~~wherein said securing portion is further comprising a hole which passes through the second~~ protruding piece

and a protruding pin protruding from said first article is inserted in the hole so that the second protruding piece is secured to the first article.

5. (original) A packing according to claim 1, wherein said securing portion is a securing piece which protrudes toward the first article from said protruding piece, and the securing piece is secured in a receiving hole formed in the first article so that said protruding piece is secured to said first article.

6. (currently amended) A packing according to claim 1, wherein said packing body includes a first contact portion being opposite to and in contact with said first article and a second contact portion being opposite to and in contact with said second article,

~~the surface of~~ one of said first contact portion and said second contact portion is formed flatly along the a complimentary surface of one of said first article and said second article, and

the other of said first contact portion and said second contact portion is formed to be tapered toward the other of said first article and said second article.

7. (currently amended) A connector comprising:

a packing according to claim 1, and

a connector housing which serves as a first article, said connector housing being ~~to be~~ coupled with a supplementary connector housing which serves as a second article.

8. (new) A packing extending between a first article and a second article for maintaining a substantially watertight boundary therebetween, comprising:

a solid-core ring-shaped packing body having a thickness that extends in the direction of mating of the first article and the second article;

a first protruding piece that protrudes outwardly from an outer edge of the packing body at a midpoint along the thickness of the packing body;

a second protruding piece that protrudes inwardly from an inner edge of the packing body;

a securing portion secured to the first article and extending from the first protruding piece so that the first protruding piece provides a restoring force preventing the packing body from falling or rolling to one side when the first and second articles are mated.

9. (new) A packing according to claim 8, further comprising a second securing portion including a hole that passes through the second protruding piece, wherein a protruding pin protrudes from the first article through the hole so that the protruding piece is secured to the first article.

10. (new) A packing according to claim 8, wherein the securing portion is a securing piece that protrudes from the first protruding piece and is adapted to extend through a receiving hole formed in the first article so that the first protruding piece is secured to the first article.

11. (new) A packing extending between a first article and a second article for maintaining a substantially watertight boundary therebetween, the packing including a ring-shaped packing body having a thickness that extends in the direction of mating of the first article and the second article, the packing body comprising:

a protruding piece that protrudes outwardly from an outer edge of the packing body at a midpoint along the thickness of the packing body;

a securing portion extending from the protruding piece and secured to the first article;

a first contact portion that is opposite to and in contact with the first article; and

a second contact portion that is opposite to and in contact with the second article, wherein one of the first contact portion and the second contact portion extends flatly along a complimentary surface of one of the first article and the second article, and wherein the other of the first contact portion and the second contact portion is formed to be tapered toward the other of the first article and the second article.